

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON PORTUGAL

REF.: (A) NATO 577 (B) STATE 23907 (C) STATE 22603

1. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, WHICH SUPPLEMENT THOSE CONTAINED IN REF C, MAY BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN CONSULTATIONS AT FIRST MEETING WITH SELECT GROUP OF NATO PERM-REPS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL:

(A) ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM)--COMPRISED MAINLY OF JUNIOR AND MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS, THE AFM INCLUDES ALL CURRENTS OF POLITICAL OPINION IN PORTUGAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EXTREME RIGHT. WE BELIEVE THE AFM IS SPLIT INTERNALLY WITH A HIGHLY VOCAL MINORITY IN CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENT'S DECISION-MAKING COUNCILS AND THE MODERATE MAJORITY RELATIVELY DISORGANIZED.

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THIS SMALL GROUP IN THE AFM LEADERSHIP IS PARTICULARLY

RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNIST PARTY ADVICE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THESE OFFICERS ARE THEMSELVES COMMUNISTS.

(B) COUP RUMORS IN LISBON - WE CONTINUE TO HEAR UNCONFIRMED ACCOUNTS FROM SOURCES IN LISBON THAT DISSIDENT GROUPS ON BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT OF THE POLITICAL

SPECTRUM ARE PLOTTING COUPS BY WHICH THEY WOULD SEIZE CONTROL OF THE GOP PRIOR TO THE APRIL ELECTIONS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION THE PERM REPS MAY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON THESE RUMORS.

(C) ELECTIONS.-- NO DEFINITE DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BUT, ON FEBRUARY 4, A PRESIDENTIAL AIDE TOLD THE PRESS THAT ELECTIONS WILL DEFINITELY BE HELD NO LATER THAN APRIL 25. AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS POINT MUST BE MADE 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS.

2. ONCE LUNS DECIDES ON A DATE FOR CONVENING LIMITED INFORMAL GROUP ON PORTUGAL, WE WILL TRY TO SEND YOU AN UPDATE OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

3. FOR LISBON: IN YOUR REPORTING ON SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS PLEASE INCLUDE USNATO FOR INFO AND INDICATE WHAT AMBASSADOR BRUCE MIGHT DRAW UPON IN HIS TALKS WITH PERMREPS. KISSINGER

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